

Appln. No. 10/774,983
Amendment dated September 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 17, 2004, the Examiner initially rejected claims 11-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,688,346. Included with the present response is a properly executed Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,688,346. Such properly executed Terminal Disclaimer addresses the rejection of claims 11-20 based on obviousness-type double patenting.

In the Office Action, claims 11, 16 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by the Chudy U.S. Patent No. 6,170,230. Claims 11, 16 and 20 were also rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by the Baker U.S. Patent No. 6,470,648. Claims 12-15 and 17-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the present amendment, independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 14. Thus, amended independent claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, by the present amendment, independent claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 17 such that independent claim 16 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Following the present amendment, claims 11-13, 15-16 and 18-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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